CLAIMS

We Claim:

1.   A system for identifying undesirable content in responses sent in reply to a user request for content, the system comprising:

5   a user input device that generates a request for content including an address of a target server;

a scan module that receives the user request for content and identifies the request as a request for content;

a proxy module that modifies the request for content to be redirected to a
10   proxy server;

a network that routes the request for content to the proxy server; and

a proxy server that receives the request, forwards the request to the target server, and receives a response from the target server.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the proxy server identifies undesirable content
15   in the response and processes the response according to defined parameters.

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the proxy server sends at least a portion of the response to the user, the portion of the response not including the undesirable content.

20   4.   The system of claim 2, wherein the proxy server sends a notification message back to the user, the notification message containing data related to the undesirable content.

5.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:
25   a user preference module that receives user-defined parameters utilized by the proxy server when processing the response.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy module redirects the request to the proxy server by modifying the request.

7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the proxy module modifies the request by
5   adding a redirection destination header to the request.

8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy server further quarantines undesirable content.

10   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the undesirable content is a junk e-mail message, a computer virus, or pornographic material.

10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined parameters are proxy server default parameters.

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11.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined parameters are user-defined parameters.

12.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined parameters are a combination of
20   user-defined parameters and proxy server default parameters.

13.   The system of claim 1, wherein the scan module and the proxy module are located in a network gateway device.

25   14.   The system of claim 5, wherein the scan module and the proxy module are located in a network gateway device.

15.   The system of claim 1, wherein the network gateway device further comprises a firewall and a router.

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16.   A method for identifying undesirable content in responses sent in reply to a user request for content, the method comprising:

receiving input from a user including at least one request for content addressed to a target server;

identifying the request for content;

redirecting the request for content to a proxy server;

receiving the request for content at the proxy server;

sending the request for content from the proxy server to the target server for generation of a response;

receiving the response from the target server at the proxy server;

scanning the response for undesirable content; and

processing the response according to defined parameters.

17.   The method of claim 16, further comprising:

identifying undesirable content in the response;

modifying the response to remove the undesirable content; and

sending the modified response from the proxy server to the user.

18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the request for content is identified by examining the request protocol.

19.   The method of claim 16, wherein request for content is redirected to the proxy server by modifying the request.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the request for content is modified by adding a redirection destination header to the request.

21.   The method of claim 16, wherein the request for content is redirected to the proxy server by establishing a session with the proxy server.

22.   The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving input of at least one user-defined parameter for use by the proxy server in processing the undesirable content.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the user-defined parameter is input using a browser application.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the user-defined parameter is sent to the proxy server by modifying the request.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the user-defined parameter is sent to the proxy server during a session established with the proxy server.

26. The method of claim 16, wherein the undesirable content is a junk e-mail message, a computer virus, or pornographic material.

27. A computer-readable medium for redirecting a user request for content addressed to a target server, the medium comprising instructions for:
     receiving user input that includes at least one user request for content;
     identifying the request for content;
     forwarding the request for content to a proxy module;
     the proxy module for receiving the request for content; and
     redirecting the request for content to a proxy server.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising:
     receiving at least one user-defined parameter related to processing of the response by the proxy server.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the user-defined parameter is utilized by the proxy server in processing a response that includes undesirable content.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:
     a database for storing the at least one user-defined parameter.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the request is redirected to the proxy server by modifying the request.

32.   The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the request is modified by adding a redirection destination header to the request.

33.   The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the request is redirected

5   to the proxy server by establishing a session with the proxy server.

34.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the user-defined parameter is sent to the proxy server by modifying the request.

10   35.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the user-defined parameter is sent to the proxy server during a session established with the proxy server.

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